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Volunteers at core of conference centers

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Fred and Lovisa Bryant weren't thrilled about being cooped up in Bernie's Cafe until 11 p.m.

They would rather have been working outside with their hands, but that's the breaks when you're on a mission for God.

"We don't get to bed until about midnight, and we're old," said Fred Bryant of South Daytona, Fla. "but this is where they needed us this summer, and this is where we are."

As Campers on Mission volunteers, Fred and Lovisa served ice cream and pizza over the counter at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center's Bernie's Café.

They arrived at Ridgecrest in mid-June in their 19-foot Scotty camper and plan to stay until October — "Lord willing. We're just retired people who want to spend our retirement in the Lord's work," Lovisa said.

Last year as participants in the volunteer program, the Bryants tidied up the grounds at Ridgecrest.

They and others painted, built shelves, made curtains and performed other needed chores.

Campers on Missions is operated through the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina and Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico are owned by Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention (formerly Baptist Sunday School Board).



COOL BREAK — Three volunteers enjoy an ice cream cone at the Nibble Nook at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center (from left) Jean Boyett, front desk volunteer from Baton Rouge, La.; Pat Bradley, gate house volunteer from Senatobia; and Iona Schrader, first aid volunteer from Gardendale, Ala. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

"These people have servant hearts and they are encouragers to us," said Sandra Boone, administrative manager of personnel services at Ridgecrest, which includes managing summer staffers and volunteer employment programs.

She said about 50-60 retiree volunteers are currently working at Ridgecrest, and more are needed. Paid summer staff number about 144.

"Many of them are like moms and dads to us," added Matt Black, Ridgecrest summer staff director.

"They have great attitudes and they have made a big, big difference in our staff. They are Spirit-filled."

Retired volunteers Ed and Wanda Lyons coordinate the volunteer program for Ridgecrest. The Hopkinsville, Ky., couple pulled into the Ridgecrest campground in their 32-foot Winnebago in February and plan to leave in a 34-foot slide-out Itasca in November of this year.

"We'll pick up the new camper this week," Wanda Lyons said in early July.

The Lyonses decided to trade their home and furnishings back in Hopkinsville for an extra two

feet of camper space and the slide-out dining room because they hope to be volunteers as long as God will have them.

"Five years ago, I would have never thought about selling my home and everything in it to be a full-time volunteer, but this is what the Lord has led us to do," Wanda said.

The couple even sold a practically new living room set when they went back to Hopkinsville to unload their worldly goods, Wanda said.

At Glorieta Conference Center, Campers on Missions will provide a minimum of four volunteers every week for day-to-day operation of the campground from May through September this year.

In early May, 40 volunteers worked for a week completing more than 30 tasks to ready the campground and other areas of the conference center for the summer season.

Another 34 volunteers who are not a part of Campers on Missions are working this summer, according to Billie Koller, manager of administration and support at Glorieta.

They work as greeters, receptionists, groundskeepers, information assistants, office staff, food service staff, hosts and drivers for guest transportation.

Retirees who would like information or an application form to volunteer for service at Ridgecrest or Glorieta, may write to Sandra Boone at Ridgecrest Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770 or to Billie Koller at Glorieta Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535.

Looking back

10 years ago

Baptist Memorial Hospital (BMH) opens Desoto County's first acute care hospital. The \$20 million facility provides 100 acute care beds with a 30-bed rehabilitation center scheduled to open in October. It is the ninth regional facility owned and operated by BMH of Memphis.

20 years ago

Five Mississippians are among the largest group of Journeymen ever commissioned by the Foreign Mission Board: Loretta Reynolds, Leeward Islands; Bob Dent, Liberia; Randy Von Kanel, Cayman Islands; Claudia Rae Tenney, Brazil; and Patricia Wilson, Korea.

50 years ago

Led by Bill Young, Jr., and sponsored by Calvary, First, Second and East churches in Greenville, a Youth For Christ organization is launched. The first meeting, attended by 60 young people, is held the last week of July.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

New MBCB head named

3

NOBTS sets classes

4

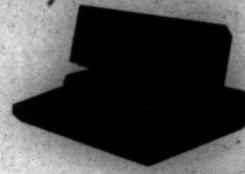
Preparing for Y2K

5

Just for the Record

6

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**

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A poor lesson for our children

Powerball fever hasn't died down yet. The publicity machine that generated the fawdry, made-up glitz surrounding the "world's largest jackpot" has barely slowed since the \$296 million drawing was held last week.

The 13 Ohio factory workers who will split the cash payout amount of around \$160 million have done their dead-level best to avoid the media, leaving work through obscure exits and hiring an attorney to handle the details while they try to protect their anonymity.

It won't be easy for them, however. We want to know all about these instant dignitaries, as if the money suddenly made their lives more interesting to everyone than the lives they were living just a few seconds before the drawing.

Ticket buyers traveling hundreds of miles across two or three states didn't seem fazed by the 80-million-to-one odds of hitting the Powerball. As one pundit put it, ticket buyers are 80 times more likely to contract flesh-eating bacteria than to pick the myriad of numbers required to win Powerball.

No matter. In Connecticut — New Yorkers' gateway to Powerball — local police were stationed on the interstates to wave frantic ticket seekers past traffic-snarled downtowns. Cities were forced to pay overtime to have enough law enforcement officers on duty to control the unruly crowds.

"This is like living out a fantasy," said one breathless ticket buyer last week after standing in line for hours outside a convenience store.

"For just a little while, I can dream," said another person who spent the night on the sidewalk in front of a favorite lottery ticket outlet.

Therein lies the pathology that allows craven governments to part us from our

hard-earned money through these legalized numbers games.

One of the most evil aspects of lottery fever, however, is the poor lesson taught our children about an honest work ethic.

Who wouldn't want \$300 million to fall into their laps? Why should a young person work hard to get an education in order to build a career, support a family, and set aside a nest egg, when the world's greatest get-rich-quick opportunity is just a ticket away?

Like all gambling scams, however, lotteries produce few winners and a host of losers.

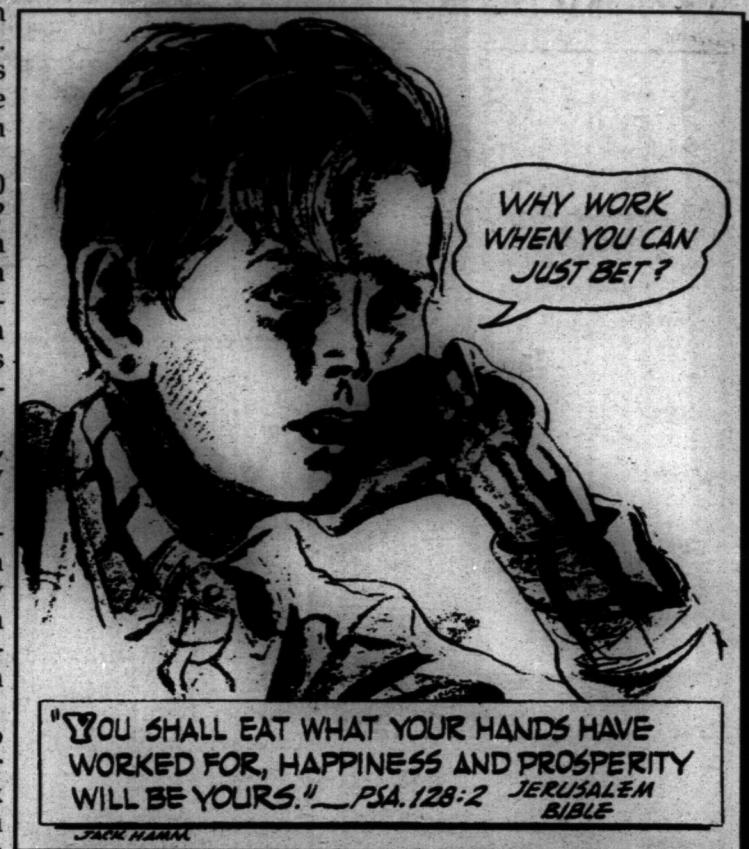
"The Motley Fool," a curiously-named financial column appearing in the Sunday Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson, created a fictional lottery player named Abner in the column's Aug. 2 edition.

If a young Abner chooses to wisely invest a meager \$50 per month for retirement, the stock market's average rate of return will favor his thrift to the tune of \$387,000 over 40 years.

Abner is playing the lottery with his \$50 per month, however. Since lotteries pay back only about 50 cents of each dollar wagered, Abner on average will lose half his investment in the first month, according to the column.

Next month, he will add \$50 to the pot and again lose half. Month after month, Abner repeats the routine of wagering and losing or, at best, winning back only 50% of his wager.

Where will this gambling Abner be in 40 years? According to "The Motley Fool," if he is the typical lottery player he will have just \$50 left, even though he has poured \$24,000 into the lottery.



Which is the better investment — a \$387,000 positive return on wise investing or a negative \$23,950 return on lottery wagers, both in the identical time period? Does anyone need to be a certified public accountant to figure that one?

"Long-term investors, not short-term speculators, will retire early," asserts the column.

Lotteries are nothing more than a public scam. Mississippi, already awash in legalized gambling and alcohol, would do well to avoid pushing another opiate on its people.

It's time we realized that fact and stopped staking the future of our state, our nation, and our children on this hollow deception.

GUEST OPINION:



'Submit' — that awful word

By Shannon T. Simpson, member
First Church, Covington, La.

SBC's amendment includes other phrases which were ignored in the furor following the convention:

"The husband and wife are of equal worth before God. Both bear God's image but each in differing ways. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to his people."

"A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect and to lead his family."

"The Baptist Faith and Message" is non-binding on members of the denomination. When messengers gathered at the June Salt Lake City convention and approved the addition to that faith statement, their aim was to more-clearly define the ground upon which Southern Baptists stand in the face of a morally deteriorating society.

We Southern Baptists recognize a state called "the priesthood of the believer," meaning each Christian is competent to work out his own salvation in Jesus Christ, is free to interpret inspired Scripture for himself outside the constraints of a church hierarchy. That freedom extends to Baptist congregations, which operate independent of each other. Therefore, any action approved by the SBC is totally non-binding on members.

This most recent Baptist Faith and Message amendment, like all others before and after it, holds no power over Southern Baptists. It is merely a statement of position.

While our statement of faith is non-binding, however, the Bible most certainly is binding. We are all to submit to each other under the authority of Christ. The word "submit" may

go over like a lead balloon in most circles, but to Southern Baptists it is the right and biblical thing to do.

I recently heard someone repeat a fellow church member's observation that she didn't "know a woman alive who wouldn't gladly submit to the leadership of a godly husband, even if it meant following him off a cliff." I believe the key word for most wives, and the key concept in Scripture, is "godly." Certainly no sane Christian would advocate a wife's blind submission to a husband who was involved in immoral activities.

The bottom line is, SBC messengers adopted the amendment because Southern Baptists ARE trying to change the model for the modern marriage, along with several other paradigms of society which have miserably failed under our efforts to conduct them by mere human standards.

It's our job to be iconoclasts. We were called to it by a Power higher than any here on this earth.

Simpson, former layout/design specialist for The Baptist Record, is news editor at The Daily Star in Hammond, La.

Futral called as MBCB executive director

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

James R. "Jim" Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church in Jackson, was unanimously elected Aug. 5 by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) to serve as the executive director-treasurer of the state's largest religious denomination.

Futral, 54, will assume his new duties when the current executive, Bill Causey, retires at the end of September after nine years of service in that post.

He will serve as executive director-treasurer elect from Sept. 1 to Oct. 1.

"I am honored to be here, honored and blessed to be a Mississippi Baptist," Futral told the board after the vote.

"I would take you back, all the way back to Pheba Baptist Church, where I was born again as a nine-year-old boy," Futral said, his voice wavering.

"It's like yesterday I met Jesus, and I haven't gotten over that and I don't intend to," he pointed out.

Futral was born in Fort Smith, Ark., and was converted at the age of nine in Pheba Church, Pheba (Miss.).

He graduated from Starkville High School in 1962, and surrendered to the ministry at age 18.

He was licensed to preach at Meadowview Church, Starkville, in 1962, and ordained at Hickory Flat Church, Hickory Flat, in 1964.

Futral received the associate degree from Clarke College in Newton in 1964, and the bachelor of arts degree from Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain in 1967.

He holds both master of divinity (1977) and doctor of ministry degrees (1980) from New Orleans

Seminary in New Orleans, and also attended Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

In 1989, his alma mater Blue Mountain College awarded him an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

Prior to being called to Broadmoor Church in 1985, Futral pastored a number of churches in Mississippi and Texas:

- ◆ North Ft. Worth Church, Ft. Worth (1981-85).
- ◆ First Church, Amory (1978-81).
- ◆ Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport (1974-78).
- ◆ Antioch Church, Columbus (1972-74).
- ◆ First Church, Briar, Texas (1971-72).
- ◆ First Church, Verona (1967-71).
- ◆ Pleasant Ridge Church, New Albany (1965-67).
- ◆ Whittentown Church, Ripley (1964-65).

Futral served as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention from 1987-89 and as chairman of the MBCB executive committee from 1993-96. He was a member of the executive committee for six years, from 1990-96.

He has also served on a number of other state convention boards, including Baptist Children's Village (1979-81) and Education Commission (1989-90). He is currently a member of the executive committee of Metro Association in Jackson.

In addition, Futral is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention executive committee based in Nashville.

At New Orleans Seminary, he has served as president of the national alumni association, as a member of the foundation board, and as an interim trustee. He is also a recipient of the seminary's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Futral was the devotional writer for The Baptist Record in the early 1980s. His sermons have been published in The Minister's Manual, edited by Charles L. Wallis.



NEW LEADER — Jim Futral (third from left) is introduced to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Aug. 5 by Robert Upchurch (second from right) of Tupelo, chairman of the MBCB executive committee, after a unanimous board vote called Futral as the next MBCB executive director-treasurer. Also present for the meeting were Futral's wife Shirley (second from left), granddaughter Mary Madison McNair (left), and MBCB president Kermit McGregor, (right) pastor of First Church, Mendenhall. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

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NO. 26

executive/search committee, reported that 39 letters of recommendation nominating 23 individuals were received by the June 4 deadline.

Each person who was recommended to the committee was contacted and asked to pray for the Lord's guidance, Upchurch said, and 15 of the original 23 responded with biographical information.

The recommendation of Futral by the executive/search committee to the full board was unanimous, Upchurch pointed out.

Miss. CP on rise

Mississippi Baptists gave \$2,428,780 through the Cooperative Program in July, according to Bill Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds.

July 1998 gifts were \$193,194 less than those of July of 1997.

However, January through July gifts total \$15,582,163, which is \$181,087, or 1.18%, more than that given in the same period of 1997.

Gifts for the first seven months of the year are \$679,975 ahead of the pro rata budget of \$14,902,188. The pro rata budget is figured by taking the entire 1998 Cooperative Program budget of \$25,546,608, dividing by 12, and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

The Cooperative Program helps fund six Southern Baptist seminaries, thousands of North American and foreign missionaries, and leadership training conferences in Mississippi.

Those leadership conferences include a series for Sunday School and Discipleship Training directors in Columbia, Aug. 11, and in Meridian, Aug. 13.

SBC CP up nearly 6%

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program receipts for July increased nearly 6% over the same month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The July receipts, \$13,797,941, compared to July 1997, \$13,036,519, are an increase of \$761,422 or 5.84%.

For the SBC fiscal year, October through July, SBC Cooperative Program gifts total \$132,927,617 compared to the previous fiscal year period of \$129,894,847, an increase of \$3,032,770 or 2.33%.

Designated gifts for the month of July increased 59.02% over the same month a year ago: \$6,765,560 compared to \$4,254,583, an increase of \$2,510,977. For the 10 months of this fiscal year, \$144,364,306 in designated gifts has been received compared to \$135,596,519 during the same period a year ago, a 6.47% increase.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the July receipts exceeded the \$12,348,756 monthly requirement by \$1,449,185, an increase of 11.74%. For the 10 months of the fiscal year, the budget allocation requirement of \$124,487,564 has been surpassed by \$8,440,053 or 6.78%.

NOBTS to add Miss. specialist to faculty

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — A specialist in medical and gerontological social work and a specialist in the theology of American cults, as well as a U.S. Naval Reserve chaplain and a veteran education minister, will join the faculty of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) Aug. 1, and several more prospective professors will come before seminary trustees for approval during the October trustee meeting.

Loretta Rivers of Union, Miss., will be an instructor in social work; Robert B. Stewart

of Williamsburg, Ky., will be an instructor in philosophy and systematic theology; Endel Lee of Mobile, Ala., will be an instructor in preaching and pastoral work; and Charles Harvey Jr. of Shreveport, La., will be an assistant professor of Christian education and associate director of the seminary's new doctor of ministry degree program.

Rivers joins the division of Christian education ministries. A social worker in New Orleans since 1989 specializing in medical and gerontological social work,

Rivers has served several years at New Orleans' Charity Hospital and Columbia Lakeland Medical Center, as well as the Carver Center, a Christian social ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) North American Mission Board.

Rivers has been an active member for 10 years at New Orleans' inner-city Elysian Fields Avenue Church, ministering weekly to children and families from the historic Desire Housing Project. She completed the bachelor of arts degree at the University of Mississippi, the master of arts degree in Christian education at New Orleans Seminary and the master of social work degree at Louisiana State University.

Stewart has been pastor of Mayfield Road Church, Arlington, Texas, since 1995.

Lee, a U.S. Naval Reserve chaplain endorsed by the SBC's North American Mission Board, has been the pastor of First Church in Roanoke, Texas, since 1994.

Harvey has been the seminary's director of continuing education since June 1997, a position he will retain.

In other news, three current professors have been named to division chairmanships:

- Jeanine Bozeman, professor of social work, who will chair the division of Christian education ministries.

- Ken Gabrielse, assistant professor of church music, who permanently will chair the division of church music ministries, replacing Sid Buckley, who has retired.

- Argile Smith, the J.D. Grey associate professor of preaching, will chair the division of pastoral ministries.

NOBTS schedules classes at Miss. extension centers

Students may register now for fall graduate classes to be held at New Orleans Seminary's Clinton extension center.

Matriculation fee is \$250 per course for Southern Baptists (\$125 per semester hour), other Baptists \$270 per course, and non-Baptists \$500 per course. Deadline for mail-in registration was August 3 (\$55 late fee due after this date). Orientation and testing will take place August 10, at 9:30 a.m., in the extension center's library. All classes meet on Mondays.

Term I classes begin August 24 and are as follows:

- 1-5 p.m.: Introduction to Christian Proclamation (300-500-20) taught by Argile Smith.
- 6-10 p.m.: Introduction to the Old Testament (100-510-20) taught by Gregory Wolfe.

Term II classes begin Oct. 26 and are as follows:

- 1-5 p.m.: Introduction to Christian Proclamation (300-501-20) taught by Smith.
- 6-10 p.m.: Introduction to the Old Testament (100-510-20) taught by Wolfe.

The extension center is located at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss. For directions or information about the cen-

ter or admission to NOBTS, call (601) 957-2670, or New Orleans Seminary, (504) 282-4455, ext. 3323.

Students may also register for fall undergraduate classes to be held at New Orleans Seminary's Jackson extension center.

Matriculation fee is \$270 per course for Southern Baptists (\$90 per semester hour), other Baptists \$300 per course and non-Baptists \$540 per course. Deadline for mail-in registration was August 3. (\$55 late fee due after this date).

Semester I classes begin August 24 and are as follows:

- 1 p.m. Monday: Teaching Methods (645-302) taught by Chester Vaughn.
- 4 p.m. Monday: Introduction to Preaching (630-212) taught by Julius Thompson.
- 7 p.m. Monday: Old Testament Interpretation: Psalms (610-340) taught by Matt Buckles.

The extension center is located at Broadmoor Church, 787 E. Northside Dr., in Jackson. For directions or information about the center, or admission to NOBTS, call (601) 956-6285, or the College of Undergraduate Studies, (504) 282-4455, ext. 3590.



SYATP material now available

Promotion material for See You At The Pole (SYATP) Sept. 16 is available by calling (817) 447-7526, according to Don Lum, consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's evangelism department.

Lum requests that reports be called in immediately following SYATP events. The report should consist of where the event was held, how many people attended, and any good news that would be worthwhile to pass on.

Reports can be made by calling Lum, at (601) 968-3800 or (601) 292-3280 or toll free (800) 748-1651. Call between the hours of 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

N.C. church may sever ties over family statement

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — First Church, Raleigh, N.C., has garnered headlines, including The New York Times on July 26, for launching committee deliberations on ending all ties to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) over the family statement, adopted June 11 by messengers in Salt Lake City as an addition to the convention's 1963 Baptist Faith and Message confessional statement.

The possible congregational vote at First Church, Raleigh, essentially will be a formality, as the church had ended its giving to SBC causes and its use of SBC Sunday School literature before the convention adopted its family statement.

The SBC statement describes marriage as "the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime."

It also notes, "The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. ... A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. ... A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ."

At First Church, Raleigh, dissatisfaction with the SBC and its family stance is expressed, for example, by Carolyn Dickens, who chairs the church's deacon body.

"I have an 18-year-old daughter," she told The New

York Times. "And how could I look at her and tell her that her opinion does not mean as much as some man's?"

The 1,300-member church, founded in 1812, has been ordaining women deacons for more than 100 years, and its bylaws require that women comprise more than half the deacon body, according to a July 13 story in the Raleigh News & Observer.

The church's pastor, Daniel Day, was quoted by the newspaper as describing the SBC family statement as "theologically abhorrent."

"It clubs women and puts men in a position I do not think is consonant with biblical witness," Day was quoted as saying.

"I think if wives want to submit, that's their business," 91-year-old church member Mabel Claire Maddrey told The New York Times.

She said she objects to "a denomination that seeks to impose someone else's standards and wishes upon the entire denomination."

"I'm a Democrat, but I don't bring that to church with me."

Bill Merrell, vice president for convention relations with the SBC Executive Committee, reacting to the church's deliberations, was quoted by The Times as saying: "In my opinion, it is a statement of their

integrity to finally say, 'We don't like the Southern Baptists, we don't believe in what they're doing, and we're not going to keep holding on to the fiction that we are a Southern Baptist church.'

First Church, Holly Springs sets Aug. ladies conference

The fourth annual ladies conference, "Time Out For Women," will be held Aug. 14-15 at First Church, Holly Springs. The conference will begin on Friday at 5:30 p.m. and will conclude at noon on Saturday with a luncheon and style show.

On program will be Judge Henry L. Lackey of Calhoun City, circuit judge, who will give a few tips for women from a man's point of view; keynote speaker will be Rhonda Kelley, wife of Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary; special guest speaker, Sylvia Harney of Nashville, Tenn., author, entertainer, and speaker, brings hilarity to the conference.



Lackey



Harney

Send name, address, and registration fee (\$15) to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 428, Holly Springs, MS 38635. For information on the workshops, call (601) 252-2627.

Year 2000 glitches seen as opportunities

ATLANTA (BP) — The possibility of widespread computer malfunctions or computer crashes at the year 2000 could usher in historic evangelism opportunities, say two evangelicals who have written books on the increasingly discussed "Y2K problem."

Because many computer programs use two-digit endings for dates, computers may interpret the upcoming turn-of-the-century "00" to mean 1900.

Warning signs already have surfaced, according to Mike Hyatt, vice president of Thomas Nelson Publishers and author of "The Millennium Bug: How to Survive the Coming Chaos." His book lists such problems as:

□ In Honolulu, the Hawaii capital's electric utility recently ran a series of tests on its power grid to see what would happen come Jan. 1, 2000, and the system stopped working.

□ Visa had to recall some credit cards with expiration dates into the next millennium, since machines reading them thought they had expired in the early 20th century.

□ In Britain, a company's computers mistakenly ordered the destruction of tons of corned beef it believed was more than 100 years old.

"When you get right down to it, the Year 2000 problem is not a technological problem," he writes in his book, which

sold 90,000 copies in two months after its release.

"We know exactly what the problem is, and we know how to fix it. We just don't have enough time. The job is too big, and we are starting too late."

Shaanti Feldhahn, whose "Y2K: The Millennium Bug — A Christian Perspective," will be released in November by Multnomah Publishers, agreed.

"It's important for people to understand this is not a technical issue," said the Y2K consultant and former Federal Reserve employee. "In 1990 it was a technical problem. Now it's a time and resource problem, which makes it a public policy and Christian issue."

Noting a friend said the situation parallels the Tower of Babel, Utah Senator Bob Bennett said after Jan. 1, 2000, modern nations also may be unable to talk to each other via vast computer networks.

"I am hoping ... we use the opportunity

to take the remaining (time) to see to it that when we get to New Year's Eve 1999, we can look back and say that we were facing something as serious of the Tower of Babel, but we have — as a nation and as a world — faced up to that," he said.

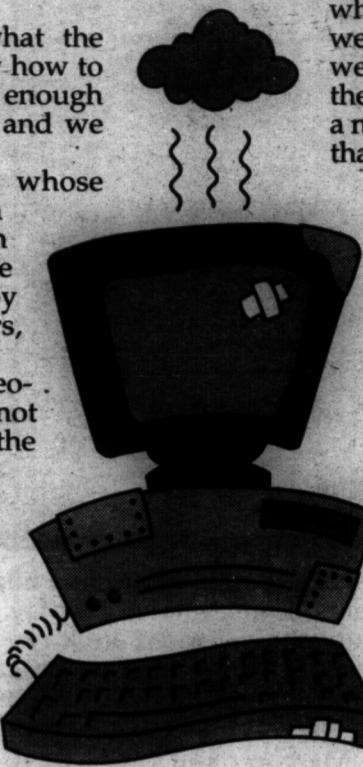
Despite some ominous warnings, Hyatt and Feldhahn believe Christians should not shrink with fear from the possibilities.

"One of the verses that has stood out to me is 2 Timothy 1:7, that God has not given us a spirit of fear," said Hyatt, who lives in the Nashville, Tenn., area. "As Christians, there is no reason to panic. God is still on the throne and we do have a responsibility to trust him."

"He has given us a spirit of power. So as impotent as we may feel in the face of this crisis, by the spirit of Christ indwelling us, we can meet this challenge."

Hundreds of churches across the nation already are gearing up for a variety of scenarios by forming Y2K task forces, he said. Three are located in the Nashville area.

"It's absolutely an incredible opportunity for the church," Feldhahn said. "There needs to be a Christian response, globally."



SBC agencies grapple with Y2K computer fixes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) agencies currently are testing computer software in an effort to successfully enter the 21st century without serious internal glitches.

This includes ongoing reviews from now through the first quarter of 1999 to eliminate potential "Y2K" or "millennial bug" problems.

Generally, people have focused on programs or equipment that may not work on Jan. 1,

2000, said Gerald Shields, director of the information systems department at LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly the Sunday School Board) in Nashville, Tenn.

A more serious problem may be posed by equipment that only appears to work properly, Shields said. For example, a program that does not comply with Y2K standards might continue to do calculations, for example, but show the next billing invoices are due in 100 years, he said.

"So many calculations are based on the last two digits of the year," Shields said. "These problems will be harder to find."

Mike Carlisle, chief information officer at the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Alpharetta, Ga., said software used at the agency is certified by the manufacturer as Y2K-compliant.

"Our first concern is our UNIX platform, which operates our accounting and human resources software," Carlisle said. "We have the latest version, certified to be Y2K-compliant, and are confident the upgrades will test out well."

However, he said there are two problems outside the agency's control.

One is outside suppliers; if their systems don't comply, it may cause NAMB ordering problems. Or, the agency may be able to place orders but experience accounting problems because of suppliers' billing software, he said.

The other challenge involves technical personnel. "We currently have three openings in our area," Carlisle. "We're diligently trying to find people, but Y2K is driving the price up."

The Annuity Board recently replaced software handling insurance, general ledger and human resources, according to public relations director Thomas Miller Jr.

While vendors have indicated these systems are ready for 2000, the staff is preparing a test plan to ensure operational continuity, he said.

The testing will be completed this fall.

The International Mission Board's global information systems office also has named a team to deal with the Y2K issue.

They are now contacting overseas offices and missionaries to learn what hardware and software they use, said Jack Surma, who directs the effort.

The IMB team began its work March 2. Research and testing of products is going so well, according to global systems vice president Jerry Burkett, it expects to complete the Y2K project next spring, well ahead of the original July 1, 1999, target.

As of July 24, the agency had analyzed all of its computer inventory, with the exception of its Macintosh software.

Its in-house and PC software and hardware and related computer networking were between 30 percent and 95 percent compliant.

All vendor-provided hardware and software that are not compliant will be replaced or upgraded, Burkett said.

The 70% of in-house products needing upgrading only require minor changes, he added, which are in progress.

Russia missionary dies

DALLAS (BP) — Carol Spann, one of Southern Baptists' first missionaries appointed to Russia after it opened to the West in 1990, died after a brief illness July 22. She was 34.

Spann, who grew up in Ames, Iowa, was diagnosed in Russia with liver cancer in early July. She and her husband, Matt, returned to the United States only a week before she died.

The Spanns were married in 1989. They had two children, Paul, 5, and Lydia, 3, who survive her.

Interfaith Associate's Conference set for Sept. 18-19 in Jackson

The 1998 Interfaith Witness Associate's Training Conference has been scheduled for Sept. 18-19 at Southside Church in Jackson. The conference will begin at 3 p.m. on Sept. 18 and conclude at 3 p.m. on Sept. 19.

Interfaith Witness Evangelism (IWE) is an integral part of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) strategy to help Southern Baptists understand and witness effectively to people in America who belong to other religions that are experiencing rapid growth in the U.S.

Ed Deuschie, interfaith witness coordinator in the evangelism department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, reported the following courses will be offered for associate certification and will be taught by staffers in the NAMB interfaith witness department:

Islam — N.S.R.K. Rayi, instructor
Jehovah Witness — Tal Davis, instructor
Occult — Jimmy Furr, instructor.

Deuschie said conference participants must be recommended by their director of missions, and must agree to lead awareness conferences in their associations.

Associations are encouraged to select one person per course, he added.

Individuals planning to attend must each submit a \$10 materials fee along with a registration form by the deadline of August 15. Meals, lodging, and travel reimbursement are available upon request. No child care will be provided.

Persons interested in attending the conference should contact their local director of missions. For more information, contact a director of missions or Deuschie at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Correction

The maker of the donated beverage urn on page 10 of the July 20, edition of The Baptist Record was incorrectly identified. It is a Gail Pittman urn, manufactured in Madison.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Amity Church, Sparta, held a note burning ceremony May 17. The church was recently remodeled and now the renovation has been paid in full. Deacons taking part in the ceremony were J. T. McQuary, Jimmy Brand, Tommy Kilgore, Paul Vaughn, Gay Lantrip, Willie Huffman, and Gary Robertson, pastor.



Sylvarena Church, Wesson, youth group attended Centrifuge Camp at Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, New Mexico, the first week in June. Front row, from left, are Nathan Jackson, Kristen Beeson, Sara Causey, Corey Beeson, Jeremy Beeson, and youth committee member Clifford Britt; back row, Wendy Beeson, youth committee member, Jeremy Little, youth director, Betty Ashley, youth committee member, Kristopher Williams, Brady Jackson, Brandon Starnes, Lauren Raney, Marilyn Britt, and Larry Beeson, youth committee member. Not pictured is Hillary Britt.

Music and Worship Ministries of Crossgates Church, Brandon, will present "Praises On The Porch - Under The Starry Skies" featuring the Celebration Orchestra and Friends on Aug. 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For more information contact the music office at (601) 825-2562.

The Steeles will be in concert at Temple Church, Petal, Aug. 13, at 7 p.m. For more information call the church office at (601) 582-1417.



Duck Hill Church, Duck Hill, held a ground breaking ceremony for a 15,000 square foot Family Life Center on July 12. The two story building will contain classroom space, a large commercial kitchen and a fellowship hall capable of handling a variety of athletic activities. Pictured (from left, front row) Norman Ezell, Carrie DeVenny, activities director, Linda Lane, John Sykes, Gwyn Smith, Paul Smith, Gary Kirk, pastor, and Ronnie Bennett; (back row) Billy Woods, Elmo Branch, Loyd Chism, Linda Bennett.

HOOMEOMINGS

Siloam, Magee: Aug. 9; 105th anniversary; 11 a.m. service, Marcus Finch, guest speaker; 1 p.m. service following lunch, Paul Roberts, guest speaker; Gerald Aultman, pastor.

Oak Grove, Smithdale: Aug. 16; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; singing, 1:30 p.m., featuring the Dixon Family; Cletus Moak, speaker.

Crooked Creek, Silver Creek: Aug. 16; Sunday School, 10 a.m. followed by morning worship with John L. Jones; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; The Gospel Echoes, Pearl, music; Darel Daniels, pastor.

Concord, Ackerman: Aug. 9; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; Roger Griffith, pastor.



New Bethel Church, Philadelphia, held homecoming and a note burning service on May 31. The church paid off the note in four years. Pictured are Ricky Goldman, chairman of the board of deacons; James Griffith, pastor of the church during the building project; and Chris Vowell, pastor.

Margaret and J. C. Mitchell will be honored on their 50th wedding anniversary at First Church, Columbus, Aug. 15 from 2-4 p.m. He is the former director of missions for Golden Triangle Association.

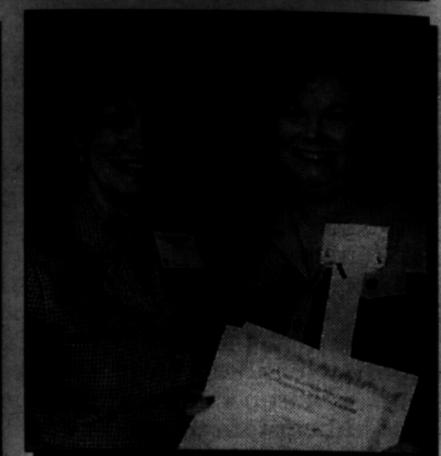


The Mitchells

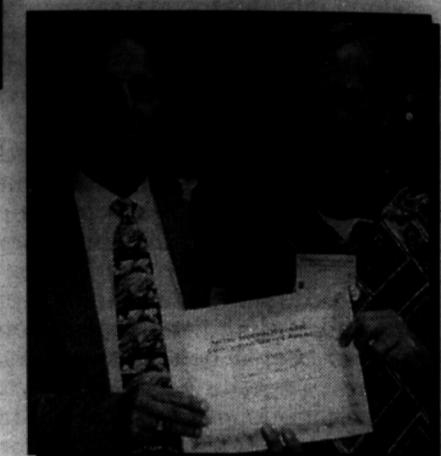
Brian Free Assurance will be in concert at First Church of Sharon, Laurel, Aug. 14 at 7 p.m.

Glade Church, Laurel, will dedicate a recreation building on Aug. 16 at 1:30 p.m. Covered dish meal will be served. Mike Thompson is pastor.

Two members of Baptist Health Systems' HIV/AIDS patient care team were recently honored with HIV/AIDS outstanding service awards for their work. William Causey, M.D., a physician at Jackson Medical Clinic and Connie Thompson with Brenda Castleberry, R.N., of the nursing administration staff at Baptist.



Castleberry and Thompson



Bethea and Causey

along with Connie Thompson, R.N., of Baptist's nursing staff.

Pictured are William Causey with Jim Bethea of Jackson Medical Clinic and Connie Thompson with Brenda Castleberry, R.N., of the nursing administration staff at Baptist.

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Sunday, August 23, 1998 - 10:00 a.m.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 6, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

KINGDOM MINISTRY CONFERENCE

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The Kingdom Agenda

Terry Martinez, minister of education, FBC, Madison

Destination

Ronnie Falvey, young adult minister, FBC, Jackson

Meeting Needs, Sharing Christ

Don Lum, youth consultant, Evangelism Dept., MBCB

Experiencing God

Sue Dockery

The Mind of Christ

Don Hicks, preschool/children's consultant, Discipleship & Family Ministry, MBCB

Life in the Spirit

Wayne Edwards, director of missions, Lauderdale Baptist Association

MasterLife

John Temple, pastor, FBC, Madison

"Building Relationships for Sharing Christ"

First Baptist Church, Madison
September 24, 1998
8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKERS



DAVID EDWARDS
Author of
*Destination:
Principles for
Making Life's
Journey Count*



CHARLES ROESEL
Author of
*Meeting Needs,
Sharing Christ:
Ministry
Evangelism in
Today's New
Testament Church*



MIKE ROGERS
Author of
*The Kingdom
Agenda:
Experiencing God
in the Workplace*

Sponsored by: Lifeway, Nashville/MBCB, Jackson • To register or for more information call 615-251-5624

SEE YOU AT THE POLE '98

Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 a.m.

Twenty-five thousand Mississippi teenagers are expected to pray on their campuses before school on September 16, observing the eighth annual See You At The Pole national day of student prayer.

Promotional materials to help plan and promote See You At The Pole are available by calling (817) 447-7526.

Reports should be made immediately following your event by calling Don Lum at the MBCB at 601-968-3800, or toll free at 1-800-748-1651.



WMU Church and Associational Leadership Training Conference

Camp Garaywa • August 14-15 Friday (5 p.m.) - Saturday (12:30 p.m.)

featuring: Wanda Lee, Columbus Ga., 16th National WMU President

- At each of these training events, associational training and materials will be available for associational WMU leaders
- Baptist Book Store display at all training events
- Free materials from State office and WMU/SBC will be available

REGISTRATION FORM: Overnight CLT/ALT (Church & Associational) Training

Friday, August 14, 5 p.m. - Saturday, August 15, 12:30 p.m. • Cost: \$23 per person in cabins

Church _____ Association _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone _____

Contact Person _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ x # (of persons) _____ = \$ _____ (total)

Make checks payable to MBCB (Mississippi Baptist Convention Board)

Send to: WMU CLT/ALT, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

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Music: Steve and Becky Carver, Starkville

**September 18-19, 1998
Gulfshore Baptist
Assembly
Pass Christian**

Cost: \$50 lodging and three meals, \$35 meals only, \$20 no meals or lodging

REGISTRATION FORM

Church/Assn. _____ Phone _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Total enclosed: _____

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(no cancellations by phone)

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Mail to: WMU Conference

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

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Pass Christian, MS 39571



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September 12

9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

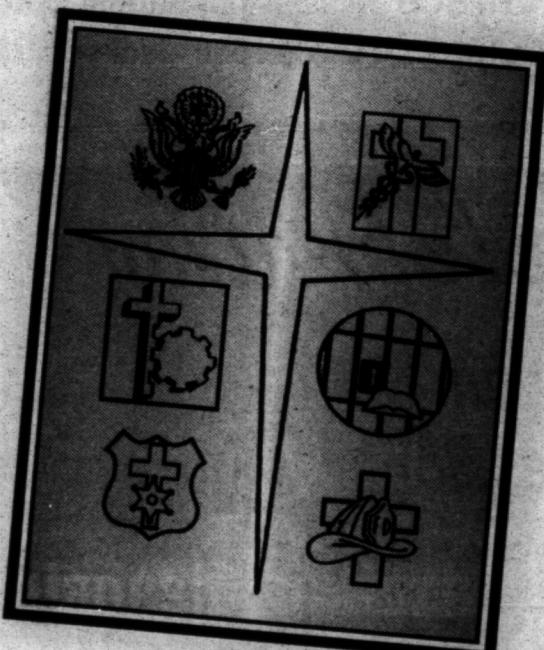
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Building
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Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association
Pastoral Care Department
Samaritan Counseling Center
Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc.

for more information contact:

Richard Brogan
1-800-748-1651



Schedule

9:30 a.m.	Welcome and IntroductionRichard Brogan and Paul Stephenson
9:35 a.m.	Introduction of Chaplaincy Video TapeJack Follis
10 a.m.	Theology of Compassion— The Model of JesusBarbara Kimbrel
10:20 a.m.	Theology Themes Behind Crisis MinistryLinda McComb
10:50 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	The Ministry of ListeningMarty Harper
Noon	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	Caring in Loss and GriefStan Rushing
1:30 p.m.	Caring in Crisis ExperiencesBarry Click
2 p.m.	Stand up/Stretch Break
2:10 p.m.	Verbatim: Experiencing Caring ..Al Carden
2:30 p.m.	Review Seminar Material Panel DiscussionJack Follis, facilitator
3 p.m.	Wrap-upPaul Stephenson and MBCB Personnel

REGISTRATION FORM EQUIPPING VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS IN CARING September 12, 1998

Registration fee of \$5 per person enclosed (includes lunch and materials)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please register by September 1, 1998

Mail to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Richard Brogan, Chaplaincy
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

For more information, call Richard Brogan, 1-800-748-1651

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Prayer Penetration -

"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers." J. Sidlow Baxter

"Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God." Unknown

A new survey of U.S. teenagers and adults suggest that many teens will eventually use the Internet for their only religious experience. Pray that current church leaders will know what to do about the inevitable gravitation of millions of people away from existing churches and that they will know how to help shape this emerging Cyberchurch.

When they return from furlough in August, missionaries to Cote D'Ivoire, Marvin and LaNette Thompson will settle in a village where 100 percent of the people follow another religion. Pray that God will begin to prepare the hearts of people there and that the Thompsons will be accepted in the community.

One-third of the population of Taipei, Taiwan, is functionally illiterate. This group is overlooked in terms of access to the gospel, since there is little Christian witness among them. Pray that the Lord will raise up churches and individual believers with a heart to minister to this group.

The "See you at the Pole" theme for 1998 is "For Such a Time as This." Pray for the 3 million teenagers expected to pray on campuses before school September 16 observing the eighth annual "See You at the Pole" National Day of Student Prayer.

For Sunday School & Discipleship Training Directors Seminar, Golden Triangle Assn. Office, Columbus, sponsored by Sunday School and Discipleship & Family Ministry Depts.

11

For Basic/Advanced Secretary Certification Seminar, Camp Garaywa, sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries. Pray for those who work with the translations of God's Word. The entire Bible does not exist in any Algerian heart language.

12

Bill Weedman of Springfield, IL, is state missions director for the Illinois Baptist State Association. Pray as they look for a DOM for the Fox Valley Baptist Assn., two Black Church Extension Directors for the Chicago Metro Baptist Assn. and Metro Baptist Assn.

For Sunday School & Discipleship Training Directors Seminar, Popular Springs Drive BC, Meridian, sponsored by Sunday School and Discipleship & Family Ministry Depts.

13

Pray that God will draw out 28 chosen servants to fill the role of evangelist in each region of the city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As various denominations work together on this project, pray that there be a spirit of cooperation and support in spreading the gospel throughout the city.

In late August, the Missions Center at the Taejon Baptist Theological College and Seminary will welcome the very first group of Korean missionaries to be trained there. Pray for the personnel at the Missions Center. Give thanks for these young missionaries and their commitment to help with a lost world.

For Town and Country Music Conference, Enon BC, Grenada. Pray that Christians will become more concerned about the increasing number of converts to Islam in America and be faithful in sharing Christ with those around them.

In the two years since believers worldwide began a concert of prayer for Turkey, more than 5,000 Turks and Turkish-speaking Gypsies have come to Christ. Pray for Turkey's 61 million Muslim people.

8

For Worship Conference, Baptist Building, sponsored by the Witness Team. Pray for missionaries Ken and Tammy Cummins as they begin a new direction to reach out to the Garifuna people in Honduras.

14

For Area Preschool/Children's Choir Clinic, FBC, Brandon, sponsored by Church Music. Pray for missionary Nancy Carley in Mozambique as she works in a clinic in Beira and in other medical ministries.

15

STATE WORSHIP CONFERENCE



Baptist Building, Jackson
Friday, August 14, 1998
9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE LEADERS



Kenneth Hemphill is a graduate of Wake Forest University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Cambridge University. He has pastored churches in Virginia and Kentucky and has authored many publications. Kenneth served as director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth in Atlanta before coming to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where he has served as president since July 1994.

Benjamin Harlan is a graduate of Baylor University, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served churches in Louisiana and Texas before becoming assistant professor of church music at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a noted composer and arranger and now serves as dean of the school of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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September 4-6, 1998

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I will seek communion to serve as a Christlike role model.

I will let my body be a temple of God,

dedicated to a lifestyle of purity.

⑥ I will be rodsly in all things, Christlike in all relationships.

Artist
Baptist

Speaker
Artist

Music
Art
Drama

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Bennie Crockett of Hattiesburg, professor of religion at William Carey College, has been appointed associate vice president of institutional effectiveness and planning. He previously served for nine years in the office of academic affairs as associate dean and associate vice president.

Mississippi College will open its doors for the 173rd school session on Aug. 22. Registration will be held Aug. 24 for students who did not

pre-register. Freshmen and new transfer students who did not register during the summer will meet at 11 a.m. on Aug. 24 in Provine Chapel. Day students will register Aug. 25. Graduate and non-degree students may register at any of the times listed. Night school registration is scheduled for Aug. 25 and 27, 4-6 p.m. For additional information call (601) 925-3240 undergraduate; 925-3225 grad-

uate students; or 925-3210, Registrar's Office.

Survival Weekend '98, hosted by the William Carey College Baptist Student Union (BSU) will take place Aug. 15-17, prior to the beginning of classes. Registration for the weekend will begin in the Student Center Aug. 14 at 4:30 p.m. Students can check into dorms between 10:30 a.m. and

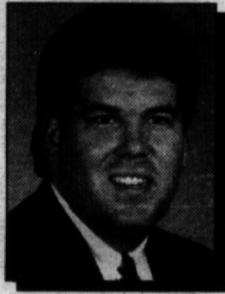
4 p.m. on Friday. The registration fee of \$20 includes all activities, meals, and a T-shirt. For more information about BSU activities contact Tim Glaze at (601) 582-6161 or the BSU office at 582-6386.

Commencement exercises will be held at William Carey College on Aug. 8 at 10 a.m. in the Dumas Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus. The speaker will be Edward Douglas Hodo, president of Houston Baptist University. Hodo, a native of Amory, is a graduate of the University of Mississippi.

Music faculty and alumni of William Carey College (WCC) are honoring Helen T. McWhorter by establishing the Helen T. McWhorter Piano Lab. This piano lab, consisting of eight digital pianos, will most commonly facilitate group piano lessons and keyboard harmony classes. A native of Texas, McWhorter joined the music faculty of WCC in 1955, where she taught organ and piano. McWhorter served as organist at First Church, Hattiesburg, for 36 years. Pictured with Helen McWhorter are Maurice McWhorter, her husband for 60 years, and Milfred Valentine, dean of the Winters School of Music. For more information contact Valentine at (601) 582-6175 or 1-800-962-5991.

STAFF CHANGES

Brent D. Barker has accepted the call as pastor of Goodwater Church, Magee, effective July 12. He formerly pastored Mt. Pleasant Church, Bogalusa, La.



Barker

Crowder Church, Crowder, has called **Ben James** as pastor effective May 17. A native of Hattiesburg, James received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Toombs Church, Toombs.



James

First Church, Durant, has called **Rick Patrick** as minister

of music and youth effective July 26. A native of Brandon, Patrick received his education at Clarke College and Mississippi College. He previously served at Shady Grove Church, Lucedale.



Patrick

Old Union, Shannon: Aug. 9-13; Sunday, 8:45 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Ronnie Owens, evangelist; Kenneth Kelly, pastor.

New Hope, Foxworth: Aug. 9-14; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. and Tues. and Thurs., 10:30 a.m.; James E. Messer Sr., Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Kenny Adams, Tylertown, music; Kent Campbell, pastor.

Pilgrim's Rest, Ethel: Aug. 9-12; Sunday, Gideon Appreciation Day, services, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Williams, Gautier, evangelist; Joe Styron, Kilmichael, music; Walter Hines, pastor.

Pleasant Ridge, Dumas: Aug. 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Kenny Digby, director of missions, Alcorn Association; Shawn Davis, Blue Mountain, music; David Blackwell, pastor.

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Maurice and Helen McWhorter, Milfred Valentine

REVIVAL DATES

Mt. Gilead, Meridian: Aug. 23-26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; Discipleship Training, 5 p.m.; worship, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Phil Smith, Meridian, evangelist; Brad Jones Family, music; Buddy Petty, pastor.

Providence, Cleveland: Aug. 23-26; 7 p.m. nightly; Jim Futral, Jackson, evangelist; Ian Richardson, Cleveland, music; Eugene Walden, pastor.

Chapel Hill, Utica: Aug. 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rudy James, evangelist.

Sebastopol, Sebastopol: Aug. 23-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Gordon Sansing, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, music; David E. Sartin, pastor.

Concord, Ackerman: Aug. 10-14; Ben Yarber, Mathiston, evangelist; Lisa Gilliland, Mathiston, music; Roger Griffith, pastor.

Crooked Creek, Silver Creek: Aug. 17-21; Gene Douglas, evangelist; Larry Davis, music; Darel Daniels, pastor.

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BALA CHITTO BAPTIST CHURCH wishes to purchase 1975 edition Baptist Hymnals in good condition. Call (601) 783-6670 Bro. Dave.

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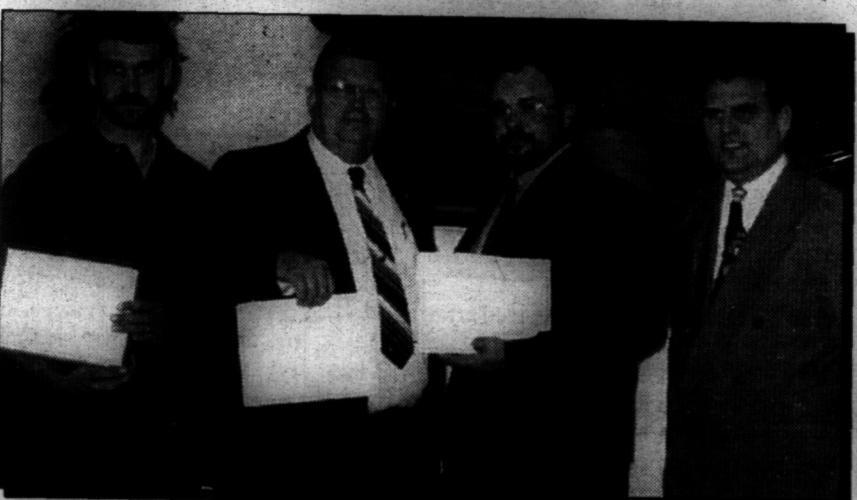
NAMES IN THE NEWS



Deacon Ordination Service was recently held at Bala Chitto Church, Pike Association, for Max Spears and John Shores. Pictured (from left, bottom row) are Jack Shores, John Shores, Howell Spears, and Wayne Spears; (top row) Lee Allen, David Hartson, pastor, and Max Spears.



David Brannon was ordained to the ministry by Carey Chapel, Marshall County, where he is serving as minister of music, on Sunday evening, July 12. Taking part on program were Dean Bumpas, chairman of deacons; John Wilson, vice-chairman of deacons; Gary Burkacki of Memphis, Brannon's former pastor; and Jack Gregory, pastor of Carey Chapel. Pictured with Brannon is his wife Brenda and daughters Dendy and Allyson.



Temple Church, Jackson, recently held a deacon ordination service for Brad Evans, Jim Powell, and Richie Price. Pictured (from left) are Evans, Powell, Price, and Scott Worley, pastor.



Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, ordained T. Van Chambers, as deacon. Chambers is 100 years old. He has been a member of Main Street Church since 1933. Pictured (from left) are Russell Bush Jr., pastor; Chambers, and his wife Cora.

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Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, honored Peter Fairley, minister of music, children, and senior adults, on his tenth anniversary, June 7. A reception followed the evening service.



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4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

First Church, Kosciusko, celebrates 150th anniversary

First Church, Kosciusko, will observe its 150th anniversary of its founding with a series of services, "Three Sundays in August." The events include the Sesquicentennial Launch on Aug. 9, Missions Emphases on Aug. 16, and Former Members Recognition Day on Aug. 23.

Barry C. Corbett, pastor, will be the speaker for the service on Aug. 9. On Aug. 16, guest speakers will be Morris Chapman, former member of the church, serving as president and chief executive officer, Executive Committee, Southern Baptist Convention; Bill Causey, executive director treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Bobby Waggoner, director of missions, Attala Association. Former members will be recognized on Aug. 23 at the 11 a.m. service. A reception will be held in the Church Parlor at 4 p.m. The day's program will conclude with a banquet in the Family Life Center at 5 p.m.

Reservations for the banquet should be made by calling the church office, (601) 289-5575, or by writing, First Baptist Church, 210 North Huntington Street, P.O. Box 70, Kosciusko, MS 39090.



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LIFE AND WORK

Feeling secure or being secure?

Jeremiah 7:1-15

By Kevin Hand

I recently received a call about a home-security system. The representative I spoke with reminded me about the perilous times in which we live, and shared with me how their company could help provide security for my home and family.

In times of turmoil, many people turn to religion for security. Some adults merely go through the motions of worshipping God. With varying degrees of regularity, they attend worship services, pray, and give money. The empty ritual of their worship lacks substance, but gives them a false feeling of security.



Hand

Real security in a turbulent world comes not through empty religious practices but through genuine worship of God. True worship strengthens our relationship with him and affects how we live.

In last week's lesson, we discussed the sin of trusting in false gods instead of God, the only source of true security. This week we focus on the danger of empty worship practices.

The people of Jeremiah's day believed that God would never allow the temple to be destroyed. The deliverance of Jerusalem and the temple from the Assyrians during the time

of Hezekiah and Isaiah was what the people cited as evidence for their trust in the temple (Isa. 36-37; 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chron. 32). The people placed their security in the temple, but their worship offered no real security because it was not genuine.

Don't Be Deceived (Jer. 7:1-4). God sent Jeremiah to deliver a message at the entrance to the temple. God called the people to change their ways if they expected to continue worshipping in the temple. God warned them against placing their trust in the belief that the temple could never be destroyed.

People must avoid placing their faith in religious institutions and on empty religious practices. Going through the motions is insufficient.

Change Your Ways (Jer. 7:5-7). If the people of Jerusalem

changed their ways, God promised to let them worship in the temple and live in the promised land. They needed to forsake idols, treat one another fairly, not shed innocent blood, and not oppress aliens, orphans, or widows.

If people expect their worship to be pleasing to God, they must not only participate in public worship but also forsake sins against God, one another, and helpless people.

Practice What You Profess (Jer. 7:8-11). God accused the people of violating many of the Ten Commandments and then coming into the temple and claiming they were safe in spite of their evil practices. The Lord warned that he had seen them turn his house into a den of robbers.

Some people falsely assume they will not be held accountable for sins if they go to the church building and do what is expected of them in worship.

Our daily practices must reflect our worship.

Heed God's Warnings (Jer. 7:12-15). God warned the stubborn evildoers that going to the temple would not spare them or the temple. He reminded them of the fate that befell Shiloh. The city of Shiloh originally housed the tabernacle with the ark of the covenant. However, the people's wickedness led to their city's destruction. Just as God had judged Shiloh and the people of Israel, so would he bring sure judgment on the temple and on Judah.

God will bring judgment on unrepentant sinners and on the places of empty religious practices that are used to try to hide the people's sins. We must heed God's warnings and trust in him for our security. We must place our faith, not in a place, but in a person—Jesus Christ.

Hand is pastor of First Church, Magee.

and all manner of evil.

Every believer needs to make a personal inventory of this list. If there is just one ungodly character, the devil will gain ground. Ask God daily to convict our hearts. This list would bring many families back together, start unending revivals in churches, and quench the work of Satan.

"Knowledge" in this instance is a practical understanding in the Christian life that will distinguish the righteous from the unrighteous.

"Temperance" is self-control. We are to control human passions, instead of being controlled by them.

"Patience" is a steadfast endurance, a mind unmoved by difficulty and distress.

"Godliness" is reverence for God and respect for mankind. This includes reverence toward God and all that belongs to him.

"Brotherly kindness" is a genuine affection for others. True godliness will express kindness to everyone.

"Charity" is agape, the love found in John 3:16. This love is unselfish, and unlimited concern for others. This love will quench gossip, back-stabbing,

no matter how hard they work, but remember trust in God and he will provide all your needs.

On the other hand some people are not lazy at all. They are the other extreme because they work too much. Workaholics neglect their families and neglect God because they are so intent on work and reaching self-satisfying goals. Be careful that you do not choose work over the ones who love you.

God wants us to always be busy whether it is in the work place or in our Christian walk. He wants our best and he deserves our best! He gave us his best by sending his only son to die for all our sins. Go outside today and watch some ants to see how God wants us work: diligently without rest. If you take up this task you are sure to be rewarded!

Simmons teaches music at Harper McCaughan Elementary and is a member of First Church, Gulfport.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Be sure you grow

2 Peter 1:1-11

By William H. Sims, III

In a recent cartoon Garfield says, "One of my pet peeves is people who never finish what they start." He cracks a smile and says, "I do not happen to be one of those people." The last frame shows him under the bed covers saying, "My philosophy is, never start anything."

Maybe this is our problem; satisfied with casual living, we have never made a commitment to grow. In this lesson, Peter points to godly qualities that will aid believer's maturity in Jesus.

Greeting (1:1-2). Simon Peter identified himself as a "bondservant" of Jesus Christ. Peter totally acknowledged Jesus as Lord and Savior. Peter's life was given all to the



Sims

service of his master.

The word "knowledge" will be repeated in vv. 3, 5, 6, and 8. This term may have been aimed at false teachers who only claimed to have true knowledge of God. Those who truly experienced Jesus will cease in immoral behavior.

Greatness in God (1:3-4). Following words of greeting, Peter reminded his readers that God provided all their resources for spiritual growth.

The word "knowledge" in verse 3 is the Greek word, *epignosis*. The basic meaning is "full knowledge." This is the knowledge of Christ and the knowledge that comes from him by faith. The access to divine power is through personal knowledge

of Christ. The closer we are to Christ and his words, we will find strength and assurance.

Notice in verse 4 Peter changed from "us" to "ye." Everyone has the availability to know Christ and receive his power. The phrase "given unto us" denotes that God is the ONLY reason we receive power. Nothing we achieved, or ever will accomplish shall bring us God's power. God in his mercy and grace grants us power. God's plans for his people are "exceeding great," infinitely greater than one could ever conceive. Truly, God is good to his children. He bestows upon us power, and a plan to shine for his glory.

Godly qualities (1:5-7). The Stoic philosopher had introduced the custom of making lists of virtues to be practiced. Peter shared a godly list that must be added to enhance a firm foundation of faith.

"Virtue" is the first quality, denoting-excellence. When we are saved by grace through faith, we MUST strive for Christ-like excellence.

"Knowledge" in this instance is a practical understanding in the Christian life that will distinguish the righteous from the unrighteous.

"Temperance" is self-control. We are to control human passions, instead of being controlled by them.

"Patience" is a steadfast endurance, a mind unmoved by difficulty and distress.

"Godliness" is reverence for God and respect for mankind. This includes reverence toward God and all that belongs to him.

"Brotherly kindness" is a genuine affection for others. True godliness will express kindness to everyone.

"Charity" is agape, the love found in John 3:16. This love is unselfish, and unlimited concern for others. This love will quench gossip, back-stabbing,

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Work diligently

Prov. 6:6-8; 10:4-5; 13:4; 15:19; 18:9; 20:4; 24:30-34

By Nancie E. Simmons

It has been said that a teacher's favorite holidays are Christmas, Spring Break and summer vacation! Well, I have been enjoying my summer vacation, but it is quickly coming to a close!

During the regular school year I stay on a pretty strict schedule without a lot of free time. So, during the summer when I have my days totally free it is very easy for me to become lazy! Unfortunately, when I "veg-out" in front of the television set watching old movies it causes the laundry to pile-up, the dust-bunnies to go crazy, and supper does not get fixed!

There are many verses in the



Simmons

Bible that talk about work. God wants us to be productive, hard-working Christians. He wants us to strive to be the best that our abilities allow and he wants us to have pride in the work that we do. He does not want us to be lazy. Take some time this week and see if you are lazy in your work.

The challenge (6:6-8). In Proverbs, the writer used an ant to show the Christian how he should be working. If you have ever watched ants at work you will notice that they are always on the go and they never stop. Also, ALL the ants are working. They are not complaining, procrastinating, or taking five-minute breaks around the water

cooler. God wants us to be like ants.

Working hard applies to how a person works at their job and at their relationship with Christ. A person should work hard at their job, striving to do their best work.

When an employee agrees to take a job he makes a promise to the employer to do his best for them. If he does not keep his end of the bargain then that promise has been broken.

Also, a person should work hard at their relationship with Christ. Our job as a Christian is to bring the lost to be saved and to establish a relationship with God. When a person becomes a Christian, he makes a promise to God to live his life differently. If a person has not changed his Christian "work habits" then he is breaking his promise to God.

The contrast (10:4-5; 13:4; 15:19; 18:9; 20:4). Proverbs talks

about how laziness will bring a person nothing. The saying "you can't get something for nothing" is very true. God does promise to provide all our needs but he does not encourage us to sit idle and wait for the manna to rain down from heaven. He wants us to be busy working whether it is at our jobs or at our Christian relationship. Even if a person is unable to work, he can still be busy in his Christian life.

God says that he will reward "business" with profit. This profit could be a sense of fulfillment, wealth, and strong friendships from work or it could be satisfaction and inner peace from a strong relationship with God. These rewards can motivate a person to get off the couch and go to work!

The caution (24:30-34). If a person is lazy at work he runs the risk of living in poverty. People sometimes cannot get out of their dire circumstances

THE VILLAGE VIEW

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Frances Boyanton, child care worker at the India Nunnery campus, talks to Terry Wills, board member from Eupora, about the new PIL (preparation for independent living) program housed in Bailey cottage on the Jackson campus.

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The Baptist Children's Village Young People are Looking for a Few Good Mentors

The Baptist Children's Village is in search of individuals or families who are willing to make an investment in the life of a child. Now in our second century of service to children and families we find ourselves searching for ways to empower children and families who are under Satan's attack.

Young people at The Baptist Children's Village come from many different home settings. Some have only experienced broken relationships, while others have lived lives with only unhealthy relationships or no relationships at all. Most children who come to The Baptist Children's Village come from high risk situations involving drugs, physical and sexual abuse, theft, or destruction of property.

Regardless of where they come from, they need a listening ear and a role model who can lead them on a path to a new and different life. Because these children have experienced many losses in their lives, they yearn for and indeed, need someone who can make a commitment to them and honor that commitment.

The vision and hope of The Baptist Children's Village mentor program is to offer opportunities for young people to develop some positive relationships with someone who can accept, love and be honest with them. Long term, open relationships with caring mentors can teach children about God's love for them and about their worth in His eyes. Such relationships can empower them to seek God's will for their lives and to be all that He created them to be.

Mentors who invest in the life of a child can be very instrumental in breaking a dysfunctional cycle that so many children and families find themselves caught in. A mentor who makes a commitment to a child and stands by that commitment has the power to restore broken dreams for a bright future that have been lost in a haze of pain, rejection and deception.

As mentors plant seeds of love, acceptance and hope; and as they continue to cultivate those relational seeds, a new life is harvested—a life full of potential that can now both give and receive love because that life has been loved unconditionally.

If you are interested in planting and cultivating seeds in a young person's life, contact the Social Service Department of The Baptist Children's Village, P. O. Box 27, Clinton, Mississippi, 39060-0027 or call at (601) 922-2242 to get information about the Mentor Program.

Ruby Ray begins another visit with her host family, Bill and Tracy Reeves, of Clinton.

RAs become NAMB employees for a day

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — "I like RAs because I love God, I love church, and I love to praise God," wrote Jordan Rogers, a Royal Ambassador (RA) from Calvary Church in Dayton, Texas. "I also like RAs because you can help your community, the world, and yourself; you can learn more about God and share the Word with your friends and family."



RA AWARDS — Three Crusaders and one Lad were chosen as grand prize winners of the "Big Big Contest" sponsored by the North American Mission Board (NAMB). More than 1,000 boys from across the country entered the essay contest, which was part of the 90th anniversary celebration of Royal Ambassadors. From left to right are Nathan Eleazer (Ga.), Daryl Griffin (Va.), Bob Reccord, president of NAMB, Jordan Rogers (Tex.), and Scotty Harris (Texas). Each of the four boys received an RA commemorative knife and a trip to NAMB offices, where they served as children's strategist and editors for *Lad* and *Crusader* magazines, and children's mission education Web site editor. (NAMB photo by Robert Strickland)

Rogers was one of four grand prizewinners of the "Big Big Contest" to help celebrate the 90th anniversary of Royal Ambassadors. More than 1,000 boys from across the country entered the essay contest, completing the sentence "I like RAs because ..."

Nathan Eleazer, an RA from Clairmont Hills Church in Atlanta, wrote, "I like RAs because I learn Bible verses and the different ways missionaries tell about Jesus. RAs helps me become the person God wants me to be."

Three Crusaders (grades four through

six) and one Lad (grades one through three) were chosen as grand prizewinners. In addition to Rogers and Eleazer, Scotty Harris from Cana Church, Alvarado, Texas, and Daryl Griffin from Nansemond River Church, Suffolk, Va., rounded out the top four winners.

Each received an RA commemorative knife, as well as an opportunity to help shape RA materials during a July 13-14 visit to North American Mission Board (NAMB) offices in Alpharetta, Ga. Eleazer served as children's mission education strategist, while Rogers, Harris, and Griffin served as editors for the two RA magazines, *Lad* and *Crusader*, and the children's mission education Internet web site.

"I've been involved in missions my whole life," Harris said. "My parents have helped plant a church in northeast Texas. My RA chapter established a food closet for the hungry, and we're raising money for flagpoles for the front of our church."

While at NAMB, the RAs and their parents met with agency President Bob Reccord. "We're here trying to do what you guys are doing — be on mission," Reccord told the boys.

He thanked the parents "for investing in your kids."

"The North American Mission Board is tenaciously committed to not losing the battle for our kids in this country," Reccord said. "Thank you, parents and leaders, for being committed as well."

The boys also held a strategy meeting to improve the RA materials. "We truly value their input," said Mary Branson, children's mission education strategist. "They represented thousands of RAs nationwide. It was exciting to see how much they cared about the RA program."

"I really do like RAs," said Harris. "But I'd like to see the books help us learn more about Christ and read our Bibles more."

"I think the theme of the materials should be more kids doing missions and not just adults," said

Eleazer. "We want to see kids our age doing what we're doing."

Rogers had ideas to make RAs more exciting. "It's great that we have a web site, but it's got to make kids want to come back and use it," he said. He also suggested an RA chat room and wider distribution of the web site address.

"I'd like to see more activities," said Griffin. "I like what we do, I just want to do more."

"They took their jobs seriously and really critiqued our materials," Branson added. "We intend to carefully consider each suggestion, and we already have plans to incorporate several of their ideas."

The Royal Ambassadors program actually started with Woman's Missionary Union in 1908 and was led by that organization until it became the responsibility of the former Brotherhood Commission in 1957. As of 1997, the comprehensive range of RA materials are being developed and produced by NAMB, although strong leadership networks in many states and local associations also support local churches in planning and coordinating activities.

Even with all the changes taking place on the national level, the ministry remains Southern Baptists' most effective tool for teaching boys about the importance of reaching a lost world for Christ — and giving them the leadership training, confidence through individual achievement, and practical skills to carry out that mission.

"I got saved because of RAs," Griffin said.

"What I love best about RAs is that I learn how to be a Christian," Harris added.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How can I stop my obsessive mail-order shopping by credit card? I've started dipping into my savings.

ing. You will then reap the satisfaction of fulfillment, not the trap of guilt and enslavement.

A woman in our church choir wears very strong perfume, and the odor remains 30 minutes after she leaves. It's starting to cause problems.

Unfortunately, this is a common problem in churches. Such strong odors can make people uncomfortable or cause breathing difficulty, but the offender is often unaware of the sensitivity of other people. Try to approach her with the kind message, "I like that fragrance, and I know you probably aren't aware of how strong it is. It affects my breathing and the breathing of others, and as your friend I wanted you to know." Leave it at that. If nothing happens, you may have to ask the choir director to get involved. You can even use this column as a topic of conversation at the next choir rehearsal. Above all, you want to handle this situation in a Christian manner. Study Matt. 18:15-20.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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TDC GBN YABFECAWQ
QBFS QBA JFQA QBTQ
ZW ZD QBN
YOFQBAOW ANA, YSQ
RAOMAZPAWQ DFQ QBA
YATJ QBTQ ZW ZD
QBZDA FGD ANA?
ESIA WZU: XFOQN-FDA

Clue: J = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Nine Five.

BWA head urges evangelism

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — Baptist World Alliance President Nilson Fanini challenged Southern Baptists to help win America to Christ during a June 10 breakfast hosted by the Baptist World Alliance.

Fanini, a pastor from Brazil, was elected president of the BWA in 1995 and has emphasized evangelism as the priority of his five-year term.

Almost 75 Southern Baptist leaders attended the breakfast held during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

"The Great Commission is not an option," Fanini declared. "We are commanded to preach the gospel to all the earth. I see the challenge today of 6 billion people around the world. It is a tremendous challenge, but never before have we had so many open doors to preach the gospel."

Even in the Islam and Muslim worlds, God is working and many people are becoming Christians," Fanini said he believes the revivals being experienced in places like Cuba and China are a result of churches being in the "homes and streets. In the U.S., you have big church buildings and many of the Christians in them are asleep," he said.

"America has done a lot for the other countries of the world," he acknowledged. "Praise the Lord for America. But it is time to save America again. The United States is in need of a revival," Fanini said.

"Let's work together to win America, Canada, and all the world to Jesus Christ," he pleaded.